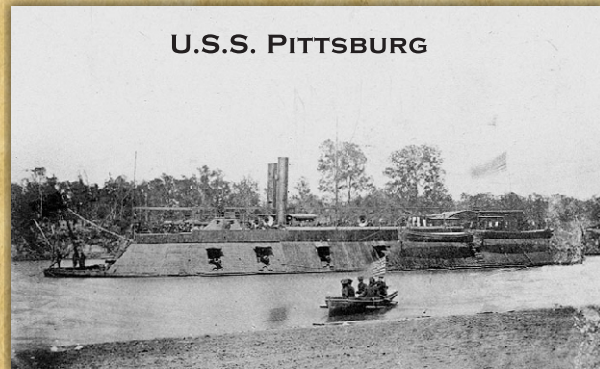




The Seven Sisters

From their first action at Forts Henry and Donelson in 1862, to the Red River Expedition of 1864, the formidable City Class gunboats provided valuable assistance to the Union campaign on the Mississippi River. Despite an 880-ton displacement, the boats drafted a mere six-feet of water and it was said they “*could navigate in a heavy dew.*” The *Cairo* is the only surviving example of the original seven City Class gunboats.



U.S.S. PITTSBURGH

Launched: October 1861 in St. Louis, Missouri.

- Actions:**
- Attack on Fort Donelson, Feb 1862.
 - Siege of Island Number 10, March 1862.
 - Bombardment of Fort Pillow, April 1862.
 - Yazoo and Steele's Bayou expeditions, November - December, 1862.
 - Ran past batteries at Vicksburg, April 1863.
 - Severely damaged at Grand Gulf, April 1863.
 - Red River expedition, Mar - May 1864.

Fate: Sold November, 1865. Abandoned 1870.

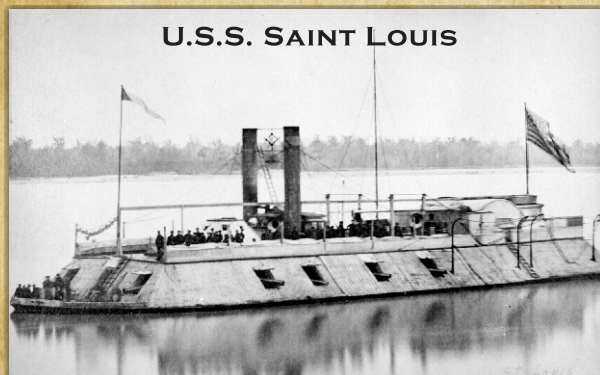


U.S.S. CINCINNATI

Launched: October 1861 in Mound City, Illinois.

- Actions:**
- Attack on Fort Henry, Feb 1862.
 - Siege of Island Number 10, March 1862.
 - Bombardment of Fort Pillow, April 1862.
 - Ramméd and sunk during Fort Pillow. Raised and refitted.
 - Attack on Fort Hindman, Jan 1863.
 - Sunk by batteries at Vicksburg, May 1863.
 - Raised and refitted, Aug, 1863.
 - Tombigbee River, Alabama May, 1865.

Fate: Sold 1866. Sank at moorings 1866.

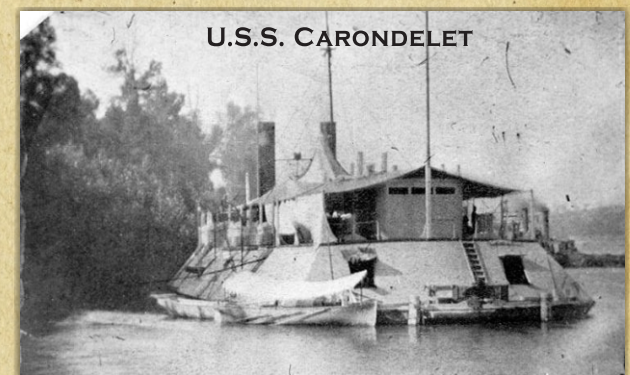


U.S.S. SAINT LOUIS

Launched: October 1861 in St. Louis, Missouri.

- Actions:**
- Hit 59 times and disabled during attack on Fort Donelson, Tenn. Feb 1862.
 - Siege of Island Number 10, March 1862.
 - Bombardment of Fort Pillow, April 1862.
 - Battle of Memphis, June 1862.
 - Renamed *Baron de Kalb*, Sep. 1862.
 - Attack on Fort Hindman Ark. Jan 1863.
 - Yazoo and Steele's Bayou expeditions, November - December, 1862.
 - Attack on Fort Pemberton, March 1863.
 - Capture of Haynes Bluff, Miss. May, 1863.
 - Yazoo river expedition, May 1863.

Fate: Sunk by torpedo in Yazoo River, May 1863.



U.S.S. CARONDELET

Launched: October 1861 in St. Louis, Missouri.

- Actions:**
- Attack on Fort Donelson, Tenn. Feb 1862.
 - Siege of Island Number 10, March 1862.
 - Engaged batteries at Fort Pillow, April 1862.
 - Battle of Memphis, June 1862.
 - Bombardment of St. Charles, Ark. June 1862.
 - Severely damaged in engagement with CSS *Arkansas* on Yazoo river, July 1862.
 - Yazoo river expedition, Dec 1862.
 - Ran past Vicksburg batteries, April 1863.
 - Bombardment of Grand Gulf, April 1863.
 - Red River expedition, Mar - May 1864.

Fate: Sold November 1865. Hull became wharfboat.

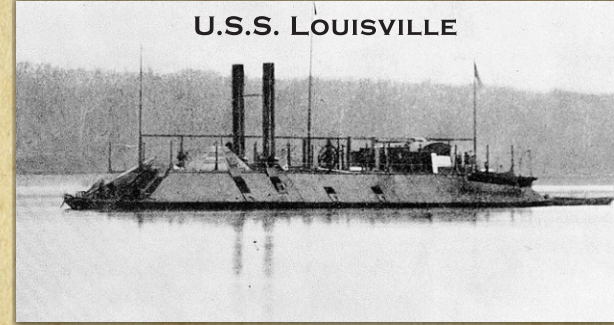


U.S.S. MOUND CITY

Launched: October 1861 in Mound City, Illinois.

- Actions:**
- Siege of Island Number 10, March 1862.
 - Bombardment of Fort Pillow, April 1862.
 - Expedition up White River. Boiler hit resulting in death of 103 crewmen. June 1862.
 - Yazoo River expedition, August 1862.
 - Steele's Bayou expedition, March 1863.
 - Ran past Vicksburg batteries, April 1863.
 - Bombardment of Grand Gulf, April 1863.
 - Bombardment of Vicksburg, May 1863.
 - Red River expedition, March - May 1864.

Fate: Sold, November 1865. Scrapped, 1866.



U.S.S. LOUISVILLE

Launched: October 1861 in St. Louis, Missouri.

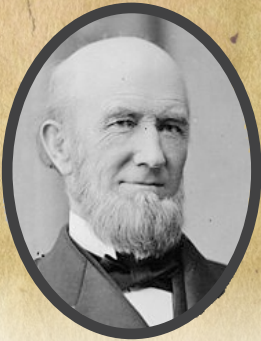
- Actions:**
- Attack on Fort Donelson, Tenn. Feb 1862.
 - Siege of Island Number 10, March 1862.
 - Battle of Memphis, June 1862.
 - Engagement with CSS *Arkansas* above Vicksburg, July 1862.
 - Drumgould's Bluff, Yazoo River, Dec 1862.
 - Attack on Fort Hindman Ark. Jan 1863.
 - Steele's Bayou expedition, March 1863.
 - Ran past Vicksburg batteries, April 1863.
 - Bombardment of Grand Gulf, April 1863.
 - Bombardment of Vicksburg, May - June 1863.
 - Red River expedition, March - May 1864.

Fate: Sold, November 1865.

Seven Ironclads in 100 Days

Meet the deadline or pay \$200 a day. James Eads had agreed to these terms for the construction of seven new ironclads. To speed production, a partner shipyard built three of the boats, including the *Cairo*. Eads' shipyard in Saint Louis (pictured here) built the other four. All seven were delivered within 100 days.

James B. Eads, engineer and ship yard owner, was hired to build the City Class boats at an average cost of \$101, 808 each.



Fort Donelson - Exchanging Iron Valentines

February 14, 1862

Andrew H. Foote (1806 - 1863)
Foote took command of the Mississippi River flotilla in August 1861. In cooperation with the land forces of Ulysses S. Grant, he led the successful assault on Fort Henry, on the Tennessee River, and was wounded in the leg during the subsequent attack on Fort Donelson while in command of the U.S.S. Saint Louis. For his success, Foote was promoted to rear admiral in July 1862.



On February 14, 1862, Foote's gunboat flotilla steamed-up the Cumberland river to exchange "iron valentines" with the water batteries near Fort Donelson. Foote maneuvered his gunboats very close, intending to shell the Confederate batteries into submission. The cumbersome vessels, however, moved so slowly that they became easy targets for the Confederate artillerymen and were forced to withdraw.

From a total of just under 400 rounds fired, Confederate gunners hit the St. Louis, Foote's flagship, 59 times, the Carondelet 54 times, the Louisville 36 times, and the Pittsburg 20 times.

